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Environmental Cooperation-Asia

Clean Development and Climate Program



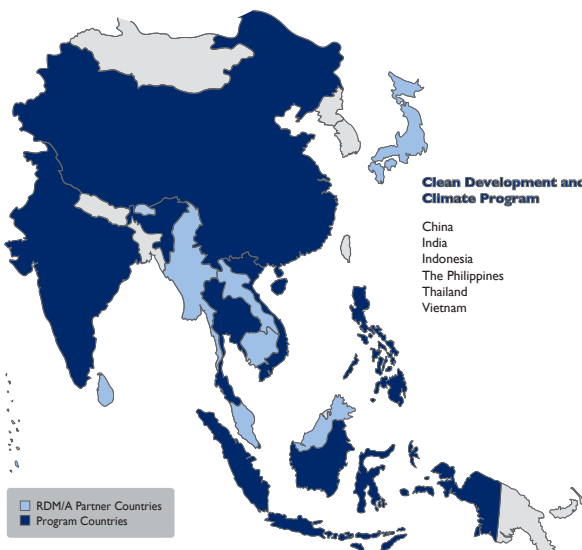
BACKGROUND The rapid growth of Asia's developing economies has led to enormous environmental challenges, particularly in managing air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the energy and transportation sectors. Air pollution levels in many of Asia's mega-cities are unsafe. For example, levels of suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) in many Asian cities exceed—often by a factor of two, or more--the ambient air quality guidelines of the European Union and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

With regard to climate change, China ranks second only to the United States in total annual GHG emissions, while India ranks fifth in the world. Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand also add significant amounts. Energy security is also a critical issue facing Asian economies, which currently import more than one-third of all global oil supplies. Experts predict that by 2030, 80 percent of Asia's oil will come from the Middle East, making the region particularly vulnerable to price shocks.

In order to manage the impacts of unbridled growth in energy usage, Asia will need to experience a rapid paradigm shift toward clean energy approaches. Such a shift is only just getting under way, and it will require the development of a regional learning culture and improved platforms that facilitate the exchange of both successes and failures. It will also require capacity-building in policy reform and development, market interventions that leverage the private sector, and improved access to clean energy technology and finance. The end result must be a substantial and sustained increase in investment in energy-efficient equipment, renewable energy technologies, and cleaner fossil fuels.

APPROACH In cooperation with private sector and government proponents, the ECO-Asia Clean Development and Climate program promotes policy and market transformation in Asia by identifying and promoting activities that increase investment in clean technologies and lead to their expansion and scale-up.

The ECO Asia Clean Development and Climate Program is implementing the following key tasks to achieve its objectives:



Analyze regional priorities and opportunities.

Much has been done to develop clean energy in Asia, yet vast challenges remain. This program builds on the lessons of past successes and current initiatives. Through an analysis of regional energy and environmental trends, coupled with a regional “listening tour” with government policymakers, energy experts, and regional stakeholders, the program is analyzing strategic opportunities for targeting policy and market interventions.

Build government capacity to enable clean development.

The program aims to strengthen the ability of governments to promote policy reform, access to financing, and incentives for clean development. This includes the development by governments of loan funds for clean energy, as well as strengthening government capacity to facilitate private sector access to donor carbon funds. Donor coordination, knowledge-sharing, and learning will be facilitated through the use of web-based communities of practice, training modules, e-discussions, and e-conferences.

Improve ability to measure and report GHG reductions.

Through informational workshops and more in-depth training courses, the program team trains business leaders in GHG accounting and the development of greenhouse gas (GHG) benchmarks. The training is based on the GHG Protocol, which is the product of a multi-stakeholder partnership of businesses, NGOs, governments, academics, and others convened by the World Resources Institute (WRI) in partnership with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Leverage private sector partnerships to scale up deployment.

It is essential to engage the private sector in the identification, finance, and implementation of pilot projects that demonstrate the viability of clean technology options. Through the establishment of a Private Sector Working Groups in each country, the program will ensure market-driven policy recommendations, training and capacity-building plans, and scale-up of investments in appropriate clean technology options.

Regional Cooperation By working in cooperation with effective regional platforms, and by building on successes in the region, the program fosters a regional approach to problem solving, information

sharing, demonstrating solutions, and building partnerships with the private sector and civil society. The program works through regional platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate (APP-CDC); the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat and the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE); and the APEC Energy Working Group. ECO-Asia Clean Development supports the Secretariat for the APEC Expert Group on Energy Efficiency and Conservation, which is a focal point for regional collaboration and learning in the area of energy-efficiency policy, finance, and technology.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS International Resources Group (IRG), Winrock International, World Resources Institute (WRI), Academy for Educational Development (AED), Danish Energy Management A/S (DEM), and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)



Contact: Orestes Anastasia

*Environmental Cooperation-Asia (ECO-Asia)
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
GPF Witthayu Towers A, 10th Floor
93/1 Wireless Road Bangkok, Thailand 10330
Office +66-2-263-7468
Fax +66-2-263-7499
Email: oanastasia@usaid.gov*